

Regional Disparities in the Level of Socio-Economic Development in Murshidabad District of West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

The term regional disparity is very common in developing and less developed countries. It opposed the development in any region. The development indicates the advancement of overall phenomena in any region. Regional disparities have occurred in the macro-level region, while development is highly seen in the micro-level region. The present study assesses the regional disparities in the level of socio-economic development at the block level in Murshidabad district, were applying Kendall's Ranking Coefficient Index method to analyze the secondary data. A total of 26 blocks of the study area has been included in the study. To show the picture of regional disparities of socio-economic development 26 indicators are identified which are divided into three major groups such as social-related indicators, economic-related indicators, and demographic related indicators. For taking about equal regional development and improving all essential quality, potential targets for various social and economic amenities have been estimated. The present work suggests that the low developed blocks require improvement of overall socio-economic development in the study area.

KEYWORDS: Regional disparities, socio-economic development, indicators, targets

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INTRODUCTION

The disparity is a condition that is being unequal or dissimilar within and among the regions. The regional disparities are the composite phenomena of all factors namely, historical, natural, geographical, climatic, social, economic, demographic, infrastructural, and political factors. A region may be known as an economically backward region when these symptoms are indicated namely, excessive pressure of population on land, too much dependent on agriculture, the high degree of unemployment, low productivity of agriculture, lack of large industries, and absence of infrastructural facilities. So, Regional disparities are one of the main obstacles to sustained any area. India is facing regional imbalances problems which differ from state to state and district to district of India. The socio-economic development is high in the southern region as compared to the north and central regions (Ramphul, 2012). To overall socio-economic development, the districts of Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly, Nadia, Murshidabad, and Cooch Behar are found to be better developed as compared to the other districts of the state of West Bengal (Prem Narain et al, 2011). Murshidabad district is one of the most populous districts in West Bengal. Because of the vast area, the regional disparity is high in the north and north-western blocks as compared to the other blocks in the study area. There is a low level of per capita income, living standards, education, health facilities, etc.

Development is a continuous and multi-dimensional process. In many regions, the existence of regional disparities is one of the important problems nowadays (Annu, 2015). Development is a qualitative process that indicates the overall improvement of a region in terms of quality of livelihood such as educational status, work participation, demographic profile, transport, communication, and health facilities, etc of rural people (Chandra, B. 2016). Due to the improper distribution of natural and human resources, it leads to disparities of development in various blocks in the study area. According to the census 2011, more than 80 percent of the people of the Murshidabad district is breathing in rural areas. They primarily depend on various activities of agriculture, fishing, animal rearing, and so on. In the district of Murshidabad, more than 60 percent population are directly and indirectly depends on agricultural activities. Therefore, this area experiences less developed as well as less social and economic status. Various developmental programs were taken up in the state as well as the country in a planned way through different Five-Year Plans, NITI Aayog which improved social and economic well-being. The important programs are the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), Integrated Action Plan (IAP), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Sarva Shiksha Mission, National Rural Health Mission, etc.

Study Area

Murshidabad district is one of the most important districts of West Bengal. It is situated in the middle of West Bengal. It borders by the Malda district in the north, Sahebganj district (Jharkhand) in the northwest, Birbhum district in the west, Burdwan district in the southwest, and Nadia district in the south, the international border with Rajshahi Division (Bangladesh) in the east. The total area of the study area is 5341 sq. km. (2062 sq. miles). There are total of 26 blocks with five subdivisions and Berhampore is the headquarter of Murshidabad district. According to the census 2011, the total population is 71.03 lakh which makes 9th ranked out of the total of 640 districts of India. The district has a population density of 1334 per sq. kilometres (3460 population per sq. miles). The total population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 21.07 percent. The study area has a sex ratio of 957 females per 1000 males and its literacy rate is 67.53 percent according to the 2011 census of India.

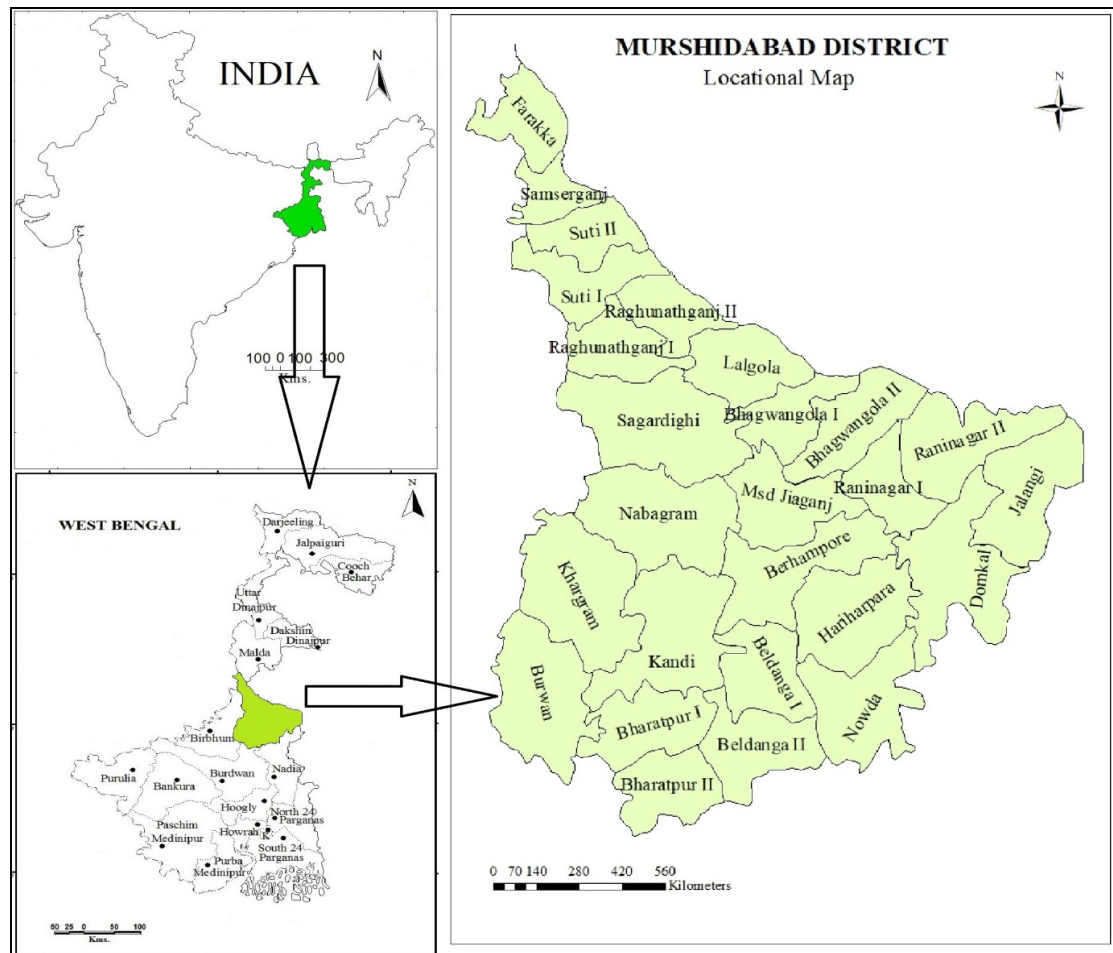


Figure 1: Locational Map of Study Area

The study area is separated by the Bhagirathi river into two equal parts such as the Rarh region in the west of the Bhagirathi river and the Bagri region in the east of this river. The district is a very fertile land mainly the Bagri region because of the Ganga river which is flowing on the north side. The tropical wet and dry climate is mainly found in the district where the annual mean temperature is approximately 27°C and annual rainfall is 160 cm or 62 inches. The highest rainfall occurs during the monsoon time primarily in August month. Agriculture is the main occupation among the people of the study area. The main crops of the study area are Rice, Jute, Legumes, oilseeds, Wheat, Barley, mangoes, and the most important vegetables.

Review of Literature

Adhikary and Chakraborty (2012) suggested that the particular strategies and plans have already been taken on behalf of the Government for initiating development at the grass-root level but it will be acquired only when there will be an execution of the appropriate strategy for a particular problem. According to Annu, (2015), Regional imbalances in the levels of development between regions or states have been a multi-dimensional phenomenon governed by various factors such as historical, natural, economic, geographical, climatic, and political factors. In this paper, she attempted to look at the inter-district situation in the levels of regional development in the state of Haryana. Roy and Mondal (2015) describe that the development of a particular region depends not only on one criterion but also on several socio-economic factors. The development of the transportation system, as well as the growing consciousness of the people about family planning, provide a distinct position in the developed region. Kalyan and Mishra (2016) reveal that the districts located in the southern part of the state are highly developed, on the other hand, the districts located in the northern part of the state are underdeveloped. For the analysis of data, they used the standardized value method, Eigen vector method, Gini co-efficient method, using a simple composite index method, etc. The present study is existing the regional disparities in the development of West Bengal in India. Chandra (2016) concluded that in the study area, the socio-economic conditions affect the livelihood and lowering the quality of life. To minimize this disparity, balanced growth in every sphere is required. Saha et al. (2018) find out that the issue of regional imbalances is primarily associated with the unequal distribution of social, economic, and demographic components among various blocks of Cooch

Behar district. Except for economic development, the blocks such as Cooch Behar I and II, Tufanganj I are secure their position as a developed block.

Statement of the Problems

Regional imbalances are one of the burning issues now a day's not only in India but also all over the world. Various plans, programs, and policies are developed to minimize the hot issues of regional disparities in the level of overall development. Murshidabad district has a vast area and the maximum population is living in rural areas (approximately 80 percent), so, the regional disparities are also high in this region. Most of the studies have targeted the state as the unit for measuring regional disparities. For this, a good number of writings and research papers have already been carried out to identify disparity by using various methods and indicators at the state level as well as the national level. But until now there is limited research paper and article related to this work in the block level of the study area. So, it will very helpful to all the researchers, planners, various NGOs, states, and the central government to minimize the regional disparity.

Objectives of the Study

The present work is based on the following objectives-

1. To analyze the different aspects regarding social, economic, and demographic perspectives in the study area.
2. To identify the regional disparities in all the blocks of the study area.
3. To make suggestions to minimize the socio-economic backwardness in the Murshidabad district.

Database and Research Methodology

This research paper is primarily based on secondary sources of data which are collected from the District Statistical Handbook (2013-14) of Murshidabad district, District Census Handbook (2011) of Murshidabad, State Statistical Handbook of West Bengal, various research papers, articles, newspapers, and so on. These data are analyzed carefully and interpreted through statistical techniques of Kendall's Ranking Co-efficient Index method to find out the regional disparity in the block level of the study area. In the present work, the Locational map and other important maps related to social, economic, and demographic aspects are drawn with the help of GIS-based software Arc GIS 10.2.1.

For identifying regional disparities in the whole block of the study area, we have selected twenty-six (26) indicators which are categorized into three different groups such as social indicators, economic indicators, and demographic indicators. These indicators are given below-

Table 1: Indicators of Social, economic, and demographic Development in Murshidabad district (2013-14).

Social Indicators	
X ₁	Number of Primary School
X ₂	Number of Middle School
X ₃	Number of High School
X ₄	Number of Higher Secondary School
X ₅	Number of Medical Institutions
X ₆	Total Number of Beds
X ₇	Total Number of Doctors
X ₈	Number of Public Library
X ₉	Number of Mouzas having drinking water facilities
X ₁₀	Number of Ferry Services
Economic indicators	
X ₁₁	Net Sown Area (in thousand hectares)
X ₁₂	Number of sources of Irrigation,
X ₁₃	Irrigated Area in hectares,
X ₁₄	Length of Roads in km,
X ₁₅	Number of Co-operative Societies,
X ₁₆	Number of Gramin and Commercial Banks,
X ₁₇	Number of Mouzas in Electricity,
X ₁₈	Percentage of Cultivators to the total Workers,
X ₁₉	Percentage of Agricultural Labourers to the total workers
X ₂₀	Number of Fertilizer Depot
Demographic indicators	
X ₂₁	Percentage of Total Population,
X ₂₂	The density of Population,
X ₂₃	Sex Ratio
X ₂₄	Total Literacy Rate,
X ₂₅	Scheduled Caste Literacy Rate,
X ₂₆	Scheduled Tribe Literacy Rate

Source: Computed by Authors.

Kendall's Ranking Coefficient method:

Kendall's Ranking Coefficient correlation (non-parametric) is also known as "Kendall's tau coefficient" which is an alternative to Pearson's correlation (parametric) and Spearman's correlation (non-parametric). This correlation method is mainly used to test the similarities in the ordering of data which is ranked by quantities. It is a measurement of association between two variables.

For the block level analysis of regional disparities in the level of socio-economic development, we used the 26 indicators under three developmental groups in Kendall's Rank Order Score method. For the calculation of the data with the help of this method, blocks are arranged according to their rank. If a block has a maximum number of scores for a particular indicator then it will rank first and so on. Similarly, based on the score of the 26 blocks have to be ranked next number like 2,3,4,5 and so on. The rank of all variables in a particular block are added and form a total value. After this, the total value is divided into total variables and makes the average value. Based on the average value of the level of various development has computed and divided it into a different stage of development. If a block securing maximum average value, then this block is treated as low-developed blocks and vice versa.

Results and Discussion

The present study aims to measure the spatial distribution in the level of socio-economic development in the Murshidabad district at a block level. The indicators which are used in the present work, have been divided into three groups such as social indicators, economic indicators, and demographic indicators. For the identification of regional disparities, the analysis of these three indicators is very important. In this present work, we have used Kendall's Ranking co-efficient method for analyzing the regional disparities and development patterns.

Regional disparities in the level of Social Development (2013-14)

To find out the regional disparities in the level of social development, ten variables have been used namely, the number of primary schools, middle schools, secondary schools, higher secondary schools, medical institutions, hospital beds, number of doctors, public library, drinking facilities, and ferry services in the study area. After the use of Kendall's method, all the 26 blocks are ranked between 3.8 to 12.5 which are categorized into five groups of very high developed blocks, high developed blocks, moderate or medium developed blocks, low developed blocks, and very low developed blocks.

Very high levels of social development: There are four blocks under the category of very high developed blocks below the range of 4.30 composite index. Burwan (3.8), Khargram (3.9), Berhampore (4.1), and Domkal (4.3) are the blocks that make more than 15 percent of the total blocks under this category. Berhampore is the headquarter of the study area so that all the social facilities are present. The rest of the three blocks are also socially high developed because of the presence of education facilities and health facilities. They get various social facilities from the adjacent town and cities due to good transport facilities.

High levels of social development: This category comes under the range of 4.30 to 6.60. The six blocks accounting for more than 23 percent fall under this category which are Sagardighi (5.4), Lalgola (5.6), Nabagram (5.6), Hariharpara (6.2), Kandi (6.4), and Beldanga II (6.6). Due to the availability of all social amenities, these blocks are occupied in this category.

Table 3: Levels of Social Development in Murshidabad district (2013-14):

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Below 4.30	Very High	Burwan, Khargram, Berhampore, Domkal	4	15.38
4.30-6.60	High	Lalgola, Sagardighi, Nabagram, Kandi, Hariharpara, Beldanga II	6	23.08
6.60-8.90	Medium	Bharatpur I, Beldanga I, Nawda, Jalangi	4	15.38
8.90-10.60	Low	Bharatpur II, Bhagwangola I, Raninagar I and II, Msd- Jiaganj, Farakka	6	23.08
Above 10.60	Very Low	Samserganj, Suti I and II, Raghunathganj I and II, Bhagwangola II.	6	23.08

Source: Computed by Researchers from Table2.

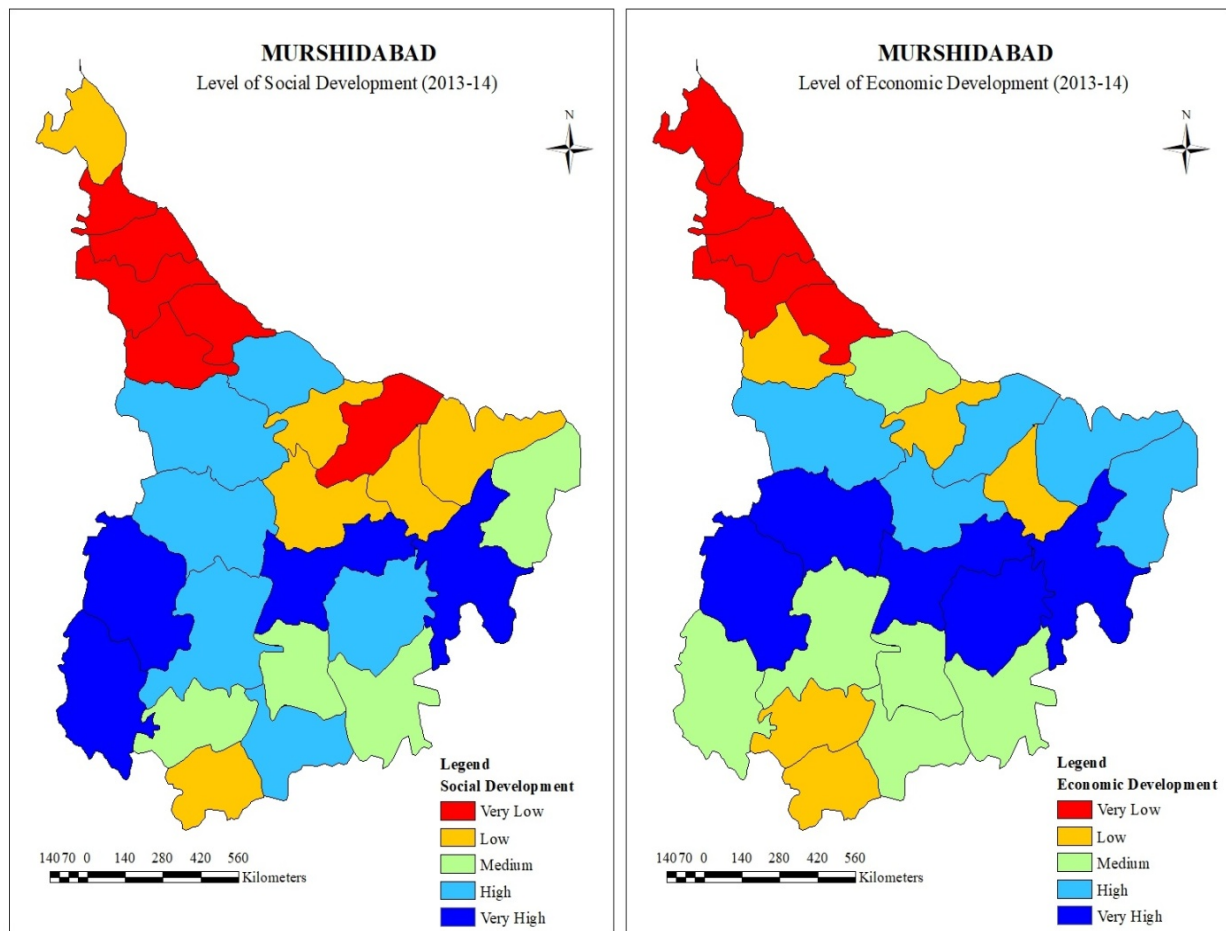
Note: Y1= Composite Value, Y2= Category, Y3= Blocks, Y4= Number of blocks, Y5= Percentage of blocks.

Medium levels of Social development: The four blocks are counted under the range of 6.60 to 8.90. These blocks are Beldanga I (7.9), Bharatpur I (8.1), Nawda (8.3), and Jalangi (8.9) accounting for more than 15 percent of the total blocks in the study area. Jalangi block is bordered by the international boundary of Bangladesh. Nawda, Bharatpur I, and Beldanga I blocks are situated in the southern part of the study area. Here, the medium type of social facilities is present such as education, health, transport, etc.

Low levels of social development: The composite value of this category ranges from 8.90 to 10.60. In this range score, six blocks are found which are accounting for more than 23 percent of the study area. These six blocks are Bharatpur II (9.4), Bhagwangola I (10.6), Raninagar I (9.6), Raninagar II (10.1), Murshidabad-Jiaganj (9.7), and Farakka (10.4). These blocks are occupied under low category because social amenities such as schools, colleges, universities, government, and private hospitals, transport systems are less as compared to the above category.

Very low levels of social development: The six blocks are occupied under the range of more than 10.60. Raghunathganj II (11.4), Raghunathganj I (11.6), Suti I (12.1), Bhagwangola II (12.2), Samserganj (12.3), and Suti II (12.5) are the blocks that make more than 23 percent of the total blocks of the study area. In these areas, the social facilities such as minimum education,

health facilities, transport facilities, and library systems are very low as compared to the other blocks in the Murshidabad districts. These blocks are situated on the northern side of the study area. The areas of these blocks are less as compared to the other blocks so that the number and percentage of social development are low though the basic social amenities are normal.



Source: Drawn by Researchers from the Table of 2 and 4

Figure 2: Block the wise distribution of level of Social and Economic Development:

Regional Disparities in the level of Economic Development (2013-14)

To study the regional disparities in the level of economic development, we have used only 10 variables related to agriculture, irrigation, roads, electricity, cultivators, agricultural labourers, co-operative societies, and various banks. The composite index of all the selected variables of economic development is from 3.8 to 21.1 which shows the economic disparities at the block level. The district is divided into five subtypes which are discussed below.

Very high levels of economic development: It consists of five blocks namely, Nabagram (3.8), Domkal (5.4), Berhampore (6.9), Khargram (7.3), and Hariharpara (7.5) which makes more than 19 percent of the total and the composite index is below 7.50. These blocks have a favourable condition of net sown area, high irrigation facilities, availability of cultivators, agricultural labourers, various banks, better transport facilities, etc.

Table 5: Levels of Economic Development in Murshidabad district (2013-14)

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Below 7.50	Very High	Domkal, Hariharpara, Berhampore, Nabagram, Khargram	5	19.23
7.50- 10.30	High	Sagardighi, Msd Jiaganj, Bhagwangola II, Raninagar II, Jalangi	5	19.23
10.30-12.40	Medium	Nawda, Beldanga I and II, Kandi, Burwan, Lalgola	6	23.08
12.40-16.70	Low	Bharatpur I and II, Raninagar I, Bhagwangola I, Raghunathganj I	5	19.23
Above 16.70	Very Low	Farakka, Samserganj, Suti I and II, Raghunathganj II	5	19.23

Source: Computed by Researchers from Table no. 4

Note: Y1= Composite Value, Y2= Category, Y3= Blocks, Y4= Number of blocks, Y5= Percentage of blocks.

High levels of economic development: The composite index of the highly developed blocks ranges from 7.50 to 10.30. These blocks are accounting for about 19 percent of the total blocks of the study area. These blocks are Murshidabad-Jiaganj (8.4), Jalangi (8.9), Bhagwangola II (9.5), Raninagar II (9.6), and Sagardighi (10.3). These blocks have an adequate level in terms of net sown area, irrigation facilities, percentage of agricultural labourers to the total workers, cultivators, fertilizer depots, etc.

Medium levels of economic development: There are six blocks belong to the composite value of 10.30 to 12.40 that come under this category. These blocks are accounting for more than 23 percent, they are Nawda (10.7), Burwan (10.8), Kandi (11.4),

Lalgola (11.7), Beldanga II (11.8), and Beldanga I (12.4). The different variables of economic development are present in these blocks neither in satisfactory condition nor in poor.

Low levels of economic development: Only five blocks are occupied in this category ranging between 12.40 and 16.70. These five blocks are Raninagar I (13.6), Bharatpur I (14.1), Bhagwangola I (14.6), Bharatpur II (15.0), and Raghunathganj I (16.7). The regional disparities are high due to lack of net sown area, irrigation facilities, bank facilities, and so on.

Very low levels of economic development: The blocks belong to the composite value of more than 16.70. There are five blocks such as Farakka (19.7), Samserganj ((20.5), Suti I (18.8), Suti II (18.9), Raghunathganj II (21.1) which are accounting for more than 19 percent of the total blocks of the study area. The variables used to determine the level of economic development are not in good condition, it is not properly used and lack of all economic variables in the study area.

Regional Disparities in the level of Demographic Development (2013-14)

It is one of the important criteria to measure human resource development in any area. The demographic profile of a region is reflected mainly by its population density, population composition, literacy rate, and sex ratio. For the measurement of regional disparities in the level of demographic development, we have used six variables such as percentage of total population, density of population, sex ratio, total literacy rate, scheduled caste literacy rate, and scheduled tribe literacy rate. The district has been divided into five categories of very high, high, medium, low, and very low developed blocks based on a combined rank score of the variables. The levels of demographic development show in figure 3.

Very high levels of demographic development: Berhampore, Beldanga I, and Lalgola are the three blocks accounting for 11.54 percent of the total blocks that come under very high levels of demographic development and a composite score is below 6.83. The developed regions are often characterized by a favourable condition of the population, population density, sex ratio, and high degree of urbanization and literacy rate.

Table 7: Levels of Demographic Development in Murshidabad district (2013-14)

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Below 6.83	Very High	Beldanga I, Berhampore, Lalgola	3	11.54
6.83 to 12.00	High	Jalangi, Domkal, Raninagar I, Hariharpara, Msd Jiaganj, Nabagram, Raghunathganj II, Frakka, Samserganj	9	34.62
12.00-14.67	Medium	Bharatpur II, Beldanga II, Nawda, Sagardighi, Bhagwangola I, Suti I	6	23.08
14.67- 16.83	Low	Burwan, Khargram, Kandi, Raninagar II, Suti II, Raghunathganj I.	6	23.08
Above 16.83	Very Low	Bharatpur I, Bhagwangola II	2	7.69

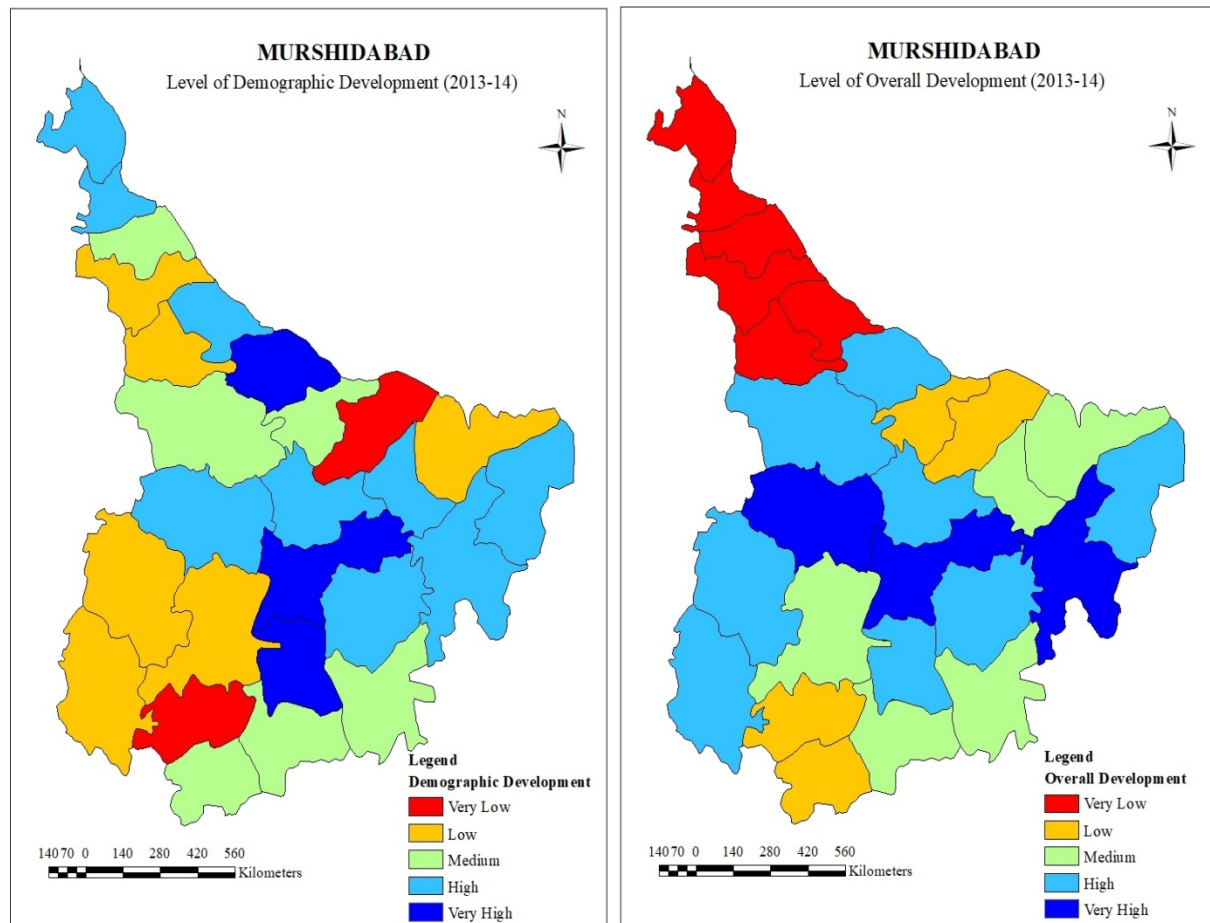
Source: Computed by Researcher from the Table no.6

Note: Y1= Composite Value, Y2= Category, Y3= Blocks, Y4= Number of blocks, Y5= Percentage of blocks.

High levels of demographic development: The blocks belong to the composite score of 6.83 to 12.00 are falls in this category. A total of nine districts are included in this category. These blocks are Jalangi, Domkal, Raninagar I, Hariharpara, Murshidabad-Jiaganj, Nabagram, Raghunathganj II, Farakka, Samserganj. It constitutes more than 34 percent of the total blocks of the study area.

Medium levels of demographic development: The composite score of this category is ranging from 12.00 to 14.67 which constitutes six blocks such as Bharatpur II, Beldanga II, Nawda, Sagardighi, Bhagwangola I, Suti I. About 23 percent of blocks are included in this category. Here all the demographic factors are in the developing stage but not in the developed stage. These blocks have a moderate density of population, sex ratio, and literacy rate.

Low levels of demographic development: Low developed category consists of composite score value between 14.67 and 16.83. Six blocks are included in this group, these are Burwan, Khargram, Kandi, Raninagar II, Suti II, Bhagwangola II and constitutes about 23 percent of the total block in the study area. All the demographic factors are not properly distributed.



Source: Drawn by Researchers from the Table of 6 and 8.

Figure 3: Levels of Demographic and Overall Development

Very low levels of demographic development: Very low developed blocks consist of above 16.83 composite scores. It is mainly found in two blocks namely Bharatpur I and Bhagwangola II, accounting for more than 7 percent of the total blocks of the study area. In these blocks, all the demographic factors such as population, density, sex ratio, literacy rate, and urbanization are very low as compared to the other blocks in the study area.

Regional Disparities in the level of Overall Development (2013-14)

It has been calculated individually for each dimension in the above and this section has shown the sum of the level of social development, economic development, and demographic development. All the indicators of the three groups are added and calculated the average rank of overall development in the study area. Here we have used 26 indicators to determine the composite values of the overall socio-economic development of the study area. In overall development, the index values show that the Berhampore (5.81) followed by Nabagram (6.19), and Domkal (6.26) has a high level of the overall development. The blocks which are most lagged namely, Suti I (15.77) followed by Suti II (15.31), Raghunathganj II (15.00).

Very high levels of overall development: According to the composite rank score 6.27 and below, only three blocks are considered as very high developed blocks namely Berhampore, Nabagram, and Domkal constituting about 11 percent of the total blocks of the study area. Due to the better social factors (schools, hospitals, colleges, doctors, transport system, electricity), economic factors (agriculture, irrigation facilities, banks, fertilizer depot), and demographic factors (population, density, sex ratio, and literacy) the above-mentioned blocks obtained the highest position in the levels of overall development (Table 9)

High levels of overall development: Based on the aggregate rank score, the highly developed block consists of eight blocks namely Beldanga-I, Hariharpara, Burwan, Khargram, Lalgola, Sagardighi, Murshidabad-Jiaganj, Jalangi having a range between 6.27 and 9.38. These blocks have several schools, colleges, universities, population, literacy rate, drinking water facilities, irrigation facilities, electricity, etc. All these variables helped the above mentioned blocks to occupy the high levels of overall development in the study areas.

Table 8: Regional Disparities in the level of overall Development (2013-14)

District	Grand Total Rank	Average Rank
Berhampore	151	5.81
Beldanga-I	237	9.12
Beldanga-II	261	10.04
Nowda	278	10.69
Hariharpara	205	7.88
Kandi	277	10.65

Khargram	205	7.88
Burwan	244	9.38
Bharatpur-I	356	13.69
Bharatpur-II	330	12.69
Farakka	373	14.35
Samserganj	382	14.69
Suti-I	410	15.77
Suti-II	398	15.31
Raghunathganj-I	380	14.62
Raghunathganj-II	390	15.00
Sagardighi	234	9.00
Lalgola	209	8.04
Bhagwangola-I	331	12.73
Bhagwangola-II	333	12.81
MsdJiaganj	238	9.15
Nabagram	161	6.19
Domkal	163	6.27
Jalangi	244	9.38
Raninagar-I	301	11.58
Raninagar-II	290	11.15

Source: Compiled by Researchers from District Statistical Handbook (2013-14) and District Census Handbook (2011).

Medium levels of overall development: In this category, five blocks namely, Beldanga II, Nawda, Kandi, Raninagar I, and Raninagar II are lying between the range of 9.38 to 11.58. The moderate presence of various socio-economic variables such as school, college, universities, hospitals, agriculture, source of irrigation areas, the total length of roads, etc. are responsible for moderate levels of overall development (Table 9)

Low levels of overall development: The composite score for this category is 11.59 to 13.69. Four blocks fall under this category. These blocks are Bharatpur I, Bharatpur II, Bhagwangola I, Bhagwangola II which constitutes 15.38 percent. Bhagwangola I and II blocks are situated in the north and Bharatpur I and II are situated in the south part of the study area which is far from headquarter. So, maximum facilities are not properly used in these areas.

Table 9: Levels of Overall Development in the Murshidabad district (2013-14)

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Below and 6.27	Very High	Berhampore, Nabagram and Domkal	3	11.54
6.27 to 9.38	High	Beldanga-I, Hariharpara, Burwan, Khargram, Lalgola, Sagardighi, MsdJiaganj, Jalangi.	8	30.77
9.38 to 11.58	Medium	Beldanga-II, Nawda, Kandi, Raninagar- I, Raninagar II.	5	19.23
11.59 to 13.69	Low	Bharatpur I and Bharatpur II, Bhagwabgola I, Bhagwangola II.	4	15.38
Above and 13.70	Very Low	Farakka, Samserganj, Suti I and II, Raghunathganj I and II.	6	23.08

Source: Computed by Researchers from the Table no.8

Note: Y1= Composite Value, Y2= Category, Y3= Blocks, Y4= Number of blocks, Y5= Percentage of blocks.

Very low levels of overall development: The blocks scoring above 13.70 have been placed in very low developed blocks which constitute about 23.08 percent of the total. There are six blocks such as Farakka, Samserganj, Suti I, Suti II, Raghunathganj I, and Raghunathganj II comes under this category. All these blocks are situated on the northern side of the study area. These overall development blocks are very low developed due to the lack of education, hospitals, doctors, low levels of literacy rate, and low net sown area, etc.

Conclusions:

To overall socio-economic development and based on twenty-six (26) socio-economic variables, Berhampore, Nabagram, and Domkal blocks are found to be better developed. The discussion also reveals that there are some blocks where the socio-economic development is very low such as Farakka, Samserganj, Suti I, Suti II, Raghunathganj I, and Raghunathganj II. So, regional inequality seems to follow some specific areas like north and northwest areas which are showing less socio-economic development while the development is more pronounced in the areas of the middle

and eastern side of blocks. Due to the lack of data of other important variables such as numbers of various industries, people engaged in other economic activities, peoples living standard rate, income rate, etc. these figures may also be changed. This research work helps to the analysis of various dimensions of development and identify the backward regions and also useful to formulate the plan for the balanced regional development and minimize the various regional disparities.

Recommendations-

1. Disparities are caused due to the uneven distribution of infrastructural facilities in the study area. So, different plans, policies, and programs should be taken to minimize these problems.
2. The decentralized distribution of infrastructural investment can be minimized regional disparities. It means the level of development at a smaller level should be evaluated.
3. Public facilities and basic amenities are very much important mainly in rural areas like health facilities, education facilities, etc.
4. In the last, public awareness is the most important factor to resolve the regional disparities in socio-economic development.

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Table 2: Regional Disparities in the level of Social Development

District	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10	Total Rank	Average Rank
Berhampore	192 (1)	41 (1)	9 (3)	26 (1)	12 (2)	35 (17)	9 (4)	7 (3)	131 (4)	10 (5)	41	4.1
Beldanga - I	116 (10)	14 (10)	7 (4)	14 (5)	6 (5)	41 (15)	10 (3)	7 (3)	56 (16)	6 (8)	79	7.9
Beldanga - II	105 (14)	18 (9)	6 (5)	10 (9)	6 (5)	54 (8)	8 (5)	6 (4)	63 (12)	10 (5)	66	6.6
Nowda	109 (13)	12 (12)	3 (8)	13 (6)	8 (3)	82 (3)	9 (4)	6 (4)	28 (23)	10 (5)	83	8.3
Hariharpara	123 (9)	20 (7)	6 (5)	12 (7)	6 (5)	56 (7)	9 (4)	6 (4)	63 (12)	16 (2)	62	6.2
Kandi	125 (8)	21 (6)	4 (7)	10 (9)	5 (6)	48 (10)	11 (2)	8 (2)	92 (7)	7 (7)	64	6.4
Khargram	148 (5)	14 (10)	14 (1)	15 (4)	6 (5)	92 (2)	6 (7)	6 (4)	138 (3)	9 (6)	39	3.9
Burwan	174 (2)	37 (2)	11 (2)	13 (6)	7 (4)	60 (6)	8 (5)	6 (4)	155 (2)	10 (5)	38	3.8
Bharatpur - I	101 (15)	23 (4)	4 (7)	9 (10)	3 (8)	35 (17)	8 (5)	7 (3)	82 (9)	15 (3)	81	8.1
Bharatpur - II	94 (18)	9 (15)	11 (2)	8 (11)	6 (5)	62 (5)	8 (5)	6 (4)	52 (17)	2 (12)	94	9.4
Farakka	92 (19)	11 (13)	2 (9)	11 (8)	5 (6)	37 (16)	4 (9)	7 (3)	64 (11)	4 (10)	104	10.4
Samserganj	85 (21)	13 (11)	2 (9)	9 (10)	5 (6)	20 (21)	1 (11)	7 (3)	35 (20)	3 (11)	123	12.3
Suti - I	73 (26)	6 (16)	1 (10)	9 (10)	3 (8)	35 (17)	4 (9)	7 (3)	50 (18)	11 (4)	121	12.1
Suti - II	86 (20)	1 (18)	2 (9)	8 (11)	5 (6)	31 (18)	6 (7)	5 (5)	33 (21)	4 (10)	125	12.5
Raghunathganj - I	84 (22)	5 (17)	4 (7)	7 (12)	3 (8)	42 (14)	3 (10)	8 (2)	59 (13)	5 (9)	116	11.6
Raghunathganj - II	97 (16)	13 (11)	3 (8)	8 (11)	2 (9)	25 (20)	6 (7)	6 (4)	42 (19)	5 (9)	114	11.4
Sagardighi	156 (3)	20 (7)	9 (3)	16 (3)	4 (7)	50 (9)	7 (6)	7 (3)	177 (1)	2 (12)	54	5.4
Lalgola	131 (7)	22 (5)	2 (9)	16 (3)	6 (5)	64 (4)	9 (4)	7 (3)	89 (8)	6 (8)	56	5.6
Bhagwangola - I	82 (23)	13 (11)	2 (9)	8 (11)	7 (4)	42 (14)	7 (6)	6 (4)	52 (17)	7 (7)	106	10.6
Bhagwangola - II	74 (25)	13 (11)	4 (7)	6 (13)	3 (8)	29 (19)	4 (9)	5 (5)	58 (14)	3 (11)	122	12.2
Msd Jiaganj	110 (12)	6 (16)	4 (7)	10 (9)	4 (7)	8 (22)	3 (10)	9 (1)	123 (5)	6 (8)	97	9.7
Nabagram	150 (4)	19 (8)	11 (2)	15 (4)	8 (3)	45 (12)	10 (3)	7 (3)	109 (6)	0 (13)	56	5.6
Domkal	144 (6)	10 (14)	9 (3)	18 (2)	19 (1)	116 (1)	28 (1)	6 (4)	75 (10)	21 (1)	43	4.3
Jalangi	113 (11)	25 (3)	4 (7)	13 (6)	3 (8)	44 (13)	3 (10)	8 (2)	52 (17)	2 (12)	89	8.9
Raninagar - I	79 (24)	18 (9)	5 (6)	8 (11)	7 (4)	46 (11)	5 (8)	5 (5)	57 (15)	10 (5)	96	9.6
Raninagar - II	96 (17)	20 (7)	4 (7)	8 (11)	4 (7)	46 (11)	8 (5)	8 (2)	30 (22)	2 (12)	101	10.1

Source: Compiled by Researchers from District Statistical Handbook, 2013-14, and District Census Handbook (2011).

Table 4: Regional Disparities in the level of Economic Development:

District	X11	X12	X13	X14	X15	X16	X17	X18	X19	X20	Total Rank	Average Rank
Berhampore	23.23 (4)	5627 (8)	10249 (11)	587.08 (5)	81 (1)	25 (1)	131 (4)	17.01 (14)	35.12 (17)	119 (4)	69	6.9
Beldanga-I	13.7 (14)	3954 (12)	7967 (15)	462.75 (11)	53 (6)	13 (3)	56 (15)	16.12 (17)	30.5 (19)	59 (12)	124	12.4
Beldanga-II	15.14 (12)	4372 (10)	11673 (8)	282.87 (20)	37 (11)	11 (5)	61 (11)	21.85 (10)	35.01 (18)	58 (13)	118	11.8
Nowda	15.57 (11)	10555 (1)	15766 (3)	236.43 (24)	32 (14)	11 (5)	28 (23)	25.27 (4)	49.93 (6)	38 (16)	107	10.7
Hariharpara	20.1 (6)	6742 (4)	13077 (6)	665.13 (3)	35 (12)	10 (6)	56 (15)	27.78 (2)	44.59 (11)	73 (10)	75	7.5
Kandi	16.96 (9)	1643 (19)	3473 (19)	401.66 (15)	68 (3)	10 (6)	84 (7)	33.34 (1)	42.32 (13)	19 (22)	114	11.4
Khargram	24.82 (2)	2311 (16)	13447 (4)	452.07 (14)	37 (11)	12 (4)	138 (3)	20.68 (11)	53.69 (3)	114 (5)	73	7.3
Burwan	23.03 (5)	1566 (20)	3180 (22)	347.6 (18)	54 (5)	13 (3)	155 (2)	25.12 (5)	50.99 (4)	15 (24)	108	10.8
Bharatpur-I	14.76 (13)	2485 (15)	7110 (17)	253.92 (22)	28 (16)	8 (8)	81 (8)	22.77 (7)	46.61 (10)	14 (25)	141	14.1
Bharatpur-II	12.68 (16)	1210 (22)	11290 (9)	347.71 (17)	32 (14)	10 (6)	52 (16)	15.74 (18)	40.6 (15)	35 (17)	150	15
Farakka	4.54 (25)	642 (26)	1330 (25)	289.78 (19)	25 (17)	8 (8)	64 (10)	4.2 (23)	12.29 (24)	25 (20)	197	19.7
Samserganj	4.88 (23)	666 (25)	1121 (26)	488.33 (10)	24 (18)	9 (7)	29 (22)	2.61 (26)	9.97 (25)	18 (23)	205	20.5
Suti-I	6.67 (21)	1358 (21)	4521 (18)	269.24 (21)	23 (19)	7 (9)	48 (17)	7.02 (22)	25.69 (21)	25 (19)	188	18.8
Suti-II	6.36 (22)	1747 (18)	3349 (20)	389.18 (16)	16 (21)	10 (6)	33 (20)	3.41 (25)	12.5 (23)	29 (18)	189	18.9
Raghunathganj-I	9.28 (20)	834 (23)	2204 (23)	534.45 (9)	29 (15)	8 (8)	59 (12)	7.03 (21)	16.69 (22)	57 (14)	167	16.7
Raghunathganj-II	4.88 (24)	808 (24)	1499 (24)	243.63 (23)	19 (20)	10 (6)	42 (19)	3.9 (24)	7.25 (26)	22 (21)	211	21.1
Sagardighi	10.31 (19)	3283 (13)	8686 (14)	562.87 (7)	47 (8)	13 (3)	172 (1)	16.2 (16)	49.56 (7)	51 (15)	103	10.3
Lalgola	12.84 (15)	1836 (17)	7422 (16)	535.21 (8)	39 (10)	13 (3)	84 (7)	9.18 (20)	27.83 (20)	170 (1)	117	11.7
Bhagwangola-I	10.31 (19)	6031 (7)	3231 (21)	215.16 (25)	33 (13)	8 (8)	52 (16)	13.05 (19)	40.49 (16)	130 (2)	146	14.6
Bhagwangola-II	17.85 (7)	6631 (5)	10280 (10)	459.36 (12)	25 (17)	7 (9)	58 (13)	16.83 (15)	64.12 (1)	110 (6)	95	9.5
Msd Jiaganj	15.62 (10)	6430 (6)	9889 (12)	578.95 (6)	79 (2)	8 (8)	128 (5)	18.06 (13)	43.06 (12)	130 (2)	84	8.4
Nabagram	26.69 (1)	5117 (9)	17427 (1)	900.78 (1)	49 (7)	14 (2)	109 (6)	23.6 (6)	54.52 (2)	120 (3)	38	3.8
Domkal	23.62 (3)	9080 (3)	16789 (2)	668.1 (2)	61 (4)	14 (2)	75 (9)	22.62 (8)	42.16 (14)	107 (7)	54	5.4
Jalangi	17.85 (8)	3161 (14)	13364 (5)	638.5 (4)	42 (9)	10 (6)	43 (18)	21.89 (9)	49.33 (8)	103 (8)	89	8.9
Raninagar-I	10.6 (18)	4288 (11)	8931 (13)	180.95 (26)	33 (13)	7 (9)	57 (14)	19.22 (12)	48.22 (9)	70 (11)	136	13.6
Raninagar-II	12.1 (17)	10069 (2)	11899 (7)	452.8 (13)	35 (12)	9 (7)	30 (21)	26.92 (3)	50.66 (5)	100 (9)	96	9.6

Source: Compiled by Researchers from District Statistical Handbook, 2013-14, and District Census Handbook (2011).

Table 6: Regional Disparities in the level of Demographic Development

District	X21	X22	X23	X24	X25	X26	Total Rank	Average Rank
Berhampore	6.29 (1)	1422 (8)	954 (12)	73.51 (1)	67.36 (9)	49.45 (10)	41	6.83
Beldanga-I	4.50 (4)	1892 (5)	945 (16)	70.06 (3)	68.89 (4)	74.32 (2)	34	5.67
Beldanga-II	3.53 (14)	1205 (13)	939 (18)	67.86 (7)	56.93 (18)	55.79 (7)	77	12.83
Nowda	3.19 (17)	980 (19)	950 (15)	66.09 (11)	61.97 (15)	48.93 (11)	88	14.67
Hariharpara	3.63 (11)	1018 (18)	957 (10)	69.2 (4)	68.02 (7)	45.99 (18)	68	11.33
Kandi	3.10 (18)	968 (20)	952 (13)	65.13 (14)	54.58 (21)	48.16 (13)	99	16.5
Khargram	3.85 (9)	858 (25)	959 (8)	63.56 (19)	55.3 (20)	48.44 (12)	93	15.5
Burwan	3.62 (12)	859 (24)	944 (17)	68.96 (6)	54.56 (22)	46.02 (17)	98	16.33
Bharatpur-I	2.43 (25)	940 (21)	939 (18)	62.93 (20)	45.81 (24)	31.95 (26)	134	22.33
Bharatpur-II	2.48 (24)	1113 (16)	959 (8)	66.07 (12)	42.28 (25)	77.85 (1)	86	14.33
Farakka	3.86 (8)	2065 (4)	969 (3)	59.75 (23)	64.26 (11)	37.68 (23)	72	12
Samserganj	4.00 (6)	3373 (1)	1000 (1)	54.98 (26)	60.4 (16)	70.45 (4)	54	9
Suti-I	2.53 (23)	1252 (11)	958 (9)	58.06 (24)	49.34 (23)	39.91 (21)	101	16.83
Suti-II	3.93 (7)	2510 (2)	992 (2)	55.23 (25)	39.76 (26)	39.22 (22)	84	14
Raghunathganj-I	2.75 (20)	1388 (9)	951 (14)	64.49 (15)	55.71 (19)	40.71 (20)	97	16.17
Raghunathganj-II	3.74 (10)	2182 (3)	955 (11)	61.17 (22)	63.23 (13)	56.25 (6)	65	10.83
Sagardighi	4.37 (5)	899 (23)	957 (10)	65.26 (13)	60.25 (17)	49.8 (9)	77	12.83
Lalgola	4.73 (3)	1822 (6)	964 (5)	64.32 (16)	69.55 (3)	74.13 (3)	36	6
Bhagwangola-I	2.84 (19)	1485 (7)	954 (12)	66.79 (10)	68.3 (6)	36.79 (25)	79	13.17
Bhagwangola-II	2.22 (26)	902 (22)	958 (9)	62.42 (21)	63.12 (14)	36.84 (24)	116	19.33
Msd-Jiaganj	3.30 (15)	1221 (12)	936 (19)	69.12 (5)	70.48 (1)	56.55 (5)	57	9.5
Nabagram	3.20 (16)	742 (26)	960 (7)	70.83 (2)	67.51 (8)	53.2 (8)	67	11.17
Domkal	5.12 (2)	1193 (15)	955 (11)	63.9 (17)	68.79 (5)	46.67 (16)	66	11
Jalangi	3.55 (13)	1199 (14)	951 (14)	67.35 (8)	70.09 (2)	46.8 (15)	66	11
Raninagar-I	2.66 (22)	1287 (10)	965 (4)	67.25 (9)	66.01 (10)	47.7 (14)	69	11.5
Raninagar-II	2.69 (21)	1090 (17)	961 (6)	63.6 (18)	63.62 (12)	44.25 (19)	93	15.5

Source: Compiled by Authors from District Statistical Handbook (2013-14) and District Census Handbook (2011)